

WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report February 2005

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1. WSDOT Awards \$502,577 in Third Round of Local Airport Aid Grants

WSDOT Aviation has awarded \$502,577 to 18 airports throughout Washington State in an unprecedented third round of Local Airport Aid Grants. The three-cent increase on aviation fuel, along with the \$7 airman registration increase in July 2003, generated enough money to enable the third round of grants.

Higher priority was given to airports that could demonstrate an ability to complete their proposed projects by the end of WSDOT's current biennium (June 30, 2005). With a shorter project completion time available for this round of grants, we were able to award 28% of the grants to pavement preservation. We awarded \$142,214 to fund four pavement projects, including two floatplane docks that are considered apron areas for a seaplane base.



The remaining \$360,363 will fund safety, security, maintenance and planning projects as follows:

- **Safety** – 8 projects - \$183,347 – Lighting and obstruction removal.
- **Security** – 1 project - \$4,000 – Preparation of security plan.
- **Planning** – 4 projects - \$105,293 – Preparation of Airport Layout Plans (ALPs).
- **Maintenance and Other** – 8 projects - \$67,723 – Weed control, equipment acquisition/repair, and purchase/installation of aviation fuel tank/card lock system.

State funds totaling \$5,396, along with an equivalent match from the local airport sponsor, leveraged an additional \$205,062 in funding from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The FAA provides grants to Washington airports included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS).

A new round of grants will be awarded later this year when WSDOT enters its new biennium on July 1. Sponsors that applied for but did not receive grants during this third round are encouraged to re-apply later this year. We will keep airport sponsors posted on information regarding application deadlines and project eligibility.

WSDOT thanks registered pilots, mechanics and aircraft owners for helping to protect and preserve the future of Washington airports.

A complete list of grant recipients and projects is available at:
www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/news/2005/AirptAidGrants2005.htm

2. New Gate at Bandera Helps to Keep Vandals Away

Much to the dismay of vandals, a new gate was recently installed at the access road to Bandera State Airport. Over the past year, vandalism and illegal dumping have created considerable problems at this remote site. In 2004, bullets destroyed newly installed state airport signs, as vandals used them freely for target practice. Further, the lock on the former gate had been cut several times, and the airport was badly damaged by vehicles driving on the runway.



As discussed by WSDOT Aviation and the maintenance crews at Hyak, the new gate seemed to be the best solution to thwart vandals. Highly visible, the new gate is located just off I-90. The new lock system is designed to hold several locks so other agencies will have access in case of emergencies.

Bandera State Airport is used for medical airlift, search and rescue, and as a firebase for forest fires when needed.

3. WSDOT Anticipates Early Opening of State Airports

On March 1, WSDOT will open Rogersburg State Airport, located near Anatone on the Snake River. Operated by WSDOT Aviation under conditional use from the Bureau of Land Management, the strip is a favorite among recreational pilots and is widely used during the spring and summer months. Volunteers will fly into the strip on March 1 to mow the runway, groom the parking area, and ensure the airport is in safe, usable condition for the season.

Scheduling is also underway for Adopt-an-Airport volunteer work parties to open nine other state-operated airports in early spring. With this winter's mild weather and the lack of snow, it is anticipated that the state airports, which are normally closed for the winter,

will open much earlier this year. Various pilot groups across the state have adopted most of the 16 state-operated airports and interest has increased in the two-year Adopt an Airport Program.

4. WSDOT Announces Runway Safety Grant Program

Runway incursions pose a significant but unnecessary risk for pilots and their passengers. Reducing the risks of runway incursions and collisions is a top priority of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation. WSDOT Aviation is partnering with the FAA to promote runway safety throughout Washington's system of airports by offering Runway Safety Grants to interested airport sponsors.



The maximum \$2,500 grant is intended to provide local agencies with funds to invest in projects that are directly related to increased runway safety. Sponsors must contribute a minimum 5% match of the entire project cost.

To be eligible for a WSDOT Runway Safety Grant, an airport sponsor must promote runway safety education by coordinating an education and training event for local pilots. This event must be coordinated through WSDOT Aviation and the FAA Northwest Mountain Region, Runway Safety Program Team. Sponsors may wish to partner with other airports in their region to maximize attendance and participation. If training is coordinated between several airports, each participating airport is eligible to receive the WSDOT Runway Safety Program Grant. Runway Safety Program Grant funds are available to any publicly owned/public-use airport that sponsors an educational event.

The FAA Northwest Mountain Region, Runway Safety Team is available to visit each candidate airport to conduct a Runway Safety Assessment. The results of this assessment may be used to identify eligible projects that will lead to increased runway safety. Upon request, the FAA Runway Safety Team will also develop a plan for the airport sponsor to improve the standardization of signs and markings at airports throughout the region.

Interested sponsors are asked to contact WSDOT Aviation by February 18 with their project ideas. Sponsors should also indicate whether they intend to have an assessment completed by the FAA. Runway Safety Grant applications will be accepted until March 15, 2005. Grants will be awarded by April 1.

For more information go to [Runway Safety Grant Guidelines](#) or contact Eric Johnson at (360) 651-6303 / (800) 552-0666.

5. Aviation Art Contest Winners Celebrated During Museum of Flight Reception

On Sunday evening, February 6, an event even more spectacular than the Super Bowl was taking place: WSDOT Aviation was honoring kids around the state for their achievement in the 2005 International Aviation Art Contest. About 75 people attended the special Artist's Reception, which included guest speaker Doug Murphy, FAA Regional Administer. Other attendees included art contest winners and honorable mentions, their families, and representative from WSDOT, the FAA, and The Museum of Flight. As a tribute to the participants' achievements, The Museum of Flight unveiled a display on its Lower Level Gallery wall showcasing artwork created by the winners and honorable mentions. The wall is a prominent spot, located right on the Museum's first floor where thousands of visitors travel per week. Scheduled to remain at the Museum from until March 27, the display will then move to the local FAA office. From there, representatives from the Seattle International Children's Festival will display the artwork at their event in May 2005.



Sponsored at the national level by the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), the annual International Aviation Art Contest is open to youths ranging in age from 6-17. Winning entries from Washington State have been forwarded to NASAO's headquarters in Washington, D.C. for national judging. Winners of the national competition will move on for international judging.